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to the mode in which the early families of mankind must have come into being, if they sprang from a single parent stock, which, to say the least, render the opposite theory more consonant with the natural and revealed law of God. The Divine origin of language is ably, and in our judgment satisfactorily maintained, by an exhibition of the difficulties attending the theory of gradual development, and the absurdity of the only remaining alternative, the elaboration of the primitive language by a single human mind. The second treatise is a "History of Modern Philology." The third is on "The Science of Etymology." In this full justice is done to the pervading and penetrating influence of the Sanscrit, as traceable in the classical and the modern European tongues, while the author earnestly protests against the stress laid by forced and fanciful derivations on the far less influential Semitic element. The entire work merits a careful review by some adept in the department to which it belongs. Had it not come into our hands at a very late stage of our labors on the present number, though we might feel inadequate to its thorough criticism, we should not have dismissed it with this cursory notice. We hope to recur to it, in a future issue, for the full consideration of the author's views and reasonings.

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- 18.—*The Life of Thomas Ken, Bishop of Bath and Wells.* By GEORGE L. DUYCKINCK. New York. 1859. 12mo. pp. 316.

BISHOP KEN is known wherever Christian worship finds utterance in the English tongue, by his inimitably beautiful Morning, Evening, and Midnight Hymns; and, had this volume no other attraction, we should hold it in dear esteem as having made us for the first time acquainted with the entire and genuine originals of those lyrics, which have been necessarily curtailed for use in the churches, and wantonly altered by the depraved taste of compilers. The good Bishop, if in that respect wise, would have suffered his fame as a poet to rest on these hymns. He unfortunately left for posthumous publication a mass of verse, which fills four large duodecimos, and of which the greater part is not worth the paper it covers. It is a noteworthy fact, that some of the finest devotional lyrics in our language have been composed by men who, in their longer metrical productions, were the merest drivellers. For songs of praise an effluent fancy is, perhaps, an unpropitious endowment, mingling too many terrene images and associations with strains that are least inadequate when they simply present the soul's relations to its Father, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. But the deficiency, which in this one aspect is a precious gift, is fatal in all

other departments of even devotional poetry. Mr. Duyckinck's memoir is a beautiful and loving tribute to as pure a saint, as laborious a minister of the Gospel, as meek a prelate, as upright and fearless a confessor, as has adorned the annals of the Church since the Apostles passed on to their reward. Alone of the nonjuring bishops he remained in hardly challenged and unimpeachable consistency and integrity, and retained the reverence of all parties in his deprivation and penury. This volume gives us numerous extracts from his prose writings, which justify the traditions of his unsurpassed eloquence, as well as of his venerable piety; and, above all, it offers us a vivid picture of the unintermitted labor, the contented sacrifice, the patient suffering, through which he pursued his Christ-marked way to heaven.

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- 19.—*A Compendium of American Literature, Chronologically arranged; with Biographical Sketches of the Authors, and Selections from their Works. On the Plan of the Author's "Compendium of English Literature," and "English Literature of the Nineteenth Century."* By CHARLES D. CLEVELAND. Stereotyped Edition. Philadelphia: E. C. and J. Biddle. 1859. 12mo. pp. 784.

A BOOK like this leaves endless room for cavilling; for, in his selection from the legion of writers who might seem entitled to representation, the author's own taste could not be expected to harmonize entirely with that of any other independent critic. But he has done his work with sound discretion and with signal ability. Of the one hundred and sixty-eight authors included in his plan, there are none whom the public favor has not in a good degree sanctioned as representative authors in their several departments; and among those excluded, while there are some whom we are very sorry to miss, we can name none for whom the general suffrage would demand a place. A larger book would have had a much more limited circulation; and within the present limits justice could not have been done to a larger number of writers. The biographical sketches are necessarily brief; but they bear marks of conscientious care and fidelity, and of an integrity of judgment unbiased by any prejudice of sect, clique, or party. The extracts are characteristic extracts, indicating the peculiar vein of each author's thought or genius, and where the same writer has distinguished himself in different departments, giving specimens of his style and ability in each. Forming our estimate by the labor to be wrought and the difficulties to be surmounted or evaded in such an undertaking, we regard the work as eminently successful, and worthy of the gratitude of every lover and friend of American literature.